Paris, for kindly making available data on the type-specimen of *Batrachus dussumieri* Cuvier et Valenciennes.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
8, LINDSAY STREET,
CALCUTTA-16,
24 *October*, 1968.

A. K. NAGABHUSHANAM
K. V. RAMA RAO

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16. AN ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE AND LOSS BY LINSEED CATERPILLAR *LAPHYGMA EXIGUA* HB.

Laphygma exigua Hb. (Noctuidae: Lepidoptera) is a destructive polyphagous pest in India causing serious damage to linseed, peas, lentil, lucerne etc. every year. However, no quantitative work has been done on the extent of loss caused by the pest to these crops. A study was, therefore, undertaken at Jabalpur to assess the extent of loss by the pest to linseed during 1967-68 when the crop was infested by this pest alone.

The experiment was done on 64 pairs of plants in 8 rows, each row having 16 plants. In each pair there was one treated and one untreated plant. Row to row and plant to plant distances were 1 metre and 0·5 metre respectively. Sowing was done in the last week of December, 1967, and the pest infestation started in the last week of January 1968. The infestation developed fast and reached its maximum in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of February when there were about 18 to 27 larvae per plant (untreated), usually found feeding gregariously in the webbed apical portions of plants. The larvae fed on the leaves, apical growing points and flower buds and thus checked the height and capsule formation in plants. Spraying schedule on

treated series of plants consisted of 4 sprayings with a mixture of 0·02% endrin+0·03% dimethoate (Rogor) emulsions, applied at weekly intervals starting from the 1st week of February. Spraying was done with a baby sprayer on plants in alternate rows. The other rows were left untreated. Drift of spray was prevented by using tin sheets in between rows. When the plants attained maturity and stopped vegetative growth the height of the individual plants was recorded. During harvesting, each individual plant was kept in separate bag with a label of its plant number. The number and weight of capsules of each plant were recorded. The data were subjected to statistical analysis and are given in the Table.

TABLE

EFFECT OF *Laphygma* INFESTATION ON THE HEIGHT AND YIELD OF LINSEED PLANTS

Specifications	Total height of plants (in cm.)	Total no. of capsules	Total weight of capsules (in gm.)
In 64 treated plants ..	3641	5247	404·12
In 64 untreated plants ..	3057	2800	224·28
Difference ..	584	2447	179·84
Calculated 't' value ..	8·52*	8·09*	10·09*

*Highly significant at 1% level

The above data show that the pest *Laphygma exigua* reduced the plant height and yield significantly. The percentage reduction due to the pest in plant height and in the number and weight of capsules was 16·0, 46·6 and 44·3%, respectively.

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, R. R. RAWAT
J. N. KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA, R. R. DESHPANDE
JABALPUR-4 (M.P.),
July 6, 1968.

17. A NEW RECORD OF *BRACHYDEUTERA LONGIPES* HENDEL (DIPTERA: EPHYDRIDAE) FROM WEST BENGAL

Wirth (1964)[1] recorded the occurrence of the species *Brachydeutera longipes* Hendel from Chabau, Assam, Coimbatore and Nedugadu, S. India, and from Delhi. The species has not been reported elsewhere

[1] WIRTH, W. W. (1964): A revision of the shore flies of the genus *Brachydeutera* Loew (Diptera: Ephydridae). *Ann. ent. Soc. Am.* **57** (1): 3-12, 20 figs.